

Wyoming Department of Agriculture

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The Wyoming Department of Agriculture is dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources and quality of life.



Dave Freudenthal, Governor
John Echebarte, Director

October 22, 2008

Mr. Chuck Otto, Field Manager
BLM, Pinedale Field Office
1625 West Pine
P.O. Box 768
Pinedale, Wyoming 82941

Dear Mr. Otto:

Following are the Wyoming Department of Agriculture's (WDA) comments pertaining to the Scoping Notice for the proposed Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Noble Cora Peak Allotment (NCPA) by the Pinedale Field Office of the Bureau of Land Management.

Our comments are specific to our mission: to be dedicated to the promotion and enhancement of Wyoming's agriculture, natural resources, and quality of life. As this proposed project affects our agriculture industry, and our natural resources, it's important we be kept informed of proposed actions and decisions, and we continually be provided the opportunity to express pertinent issues and concerns.

We understand the proposed project will provide additional water sources on the NCPA and will improve livestock distribution across the allotment and ultimately enhance the rangeland vegetation and wildlife habitat. The proposed project is an excellent example how livestock grazing can benefit both plant diversity and vigor, along with wildlife and wildlife habitats.

The Pinedale Field Office, along with the Jonah Interagency Office, has developed a thorough scoping document and plan for the proposed project. We commend the effort of both entities to develop a project benefiting both livestock grazing and wildlife interests. These types of projects are essential for enhancing and maintaining the health of the range for all interested parties.

The WDA supports the proposed project and challenges the Pinedale Field Office to continue to identify and develop more projects to not only maintain and enhance livestock grazing opportunities but also benefit wildlife habitats.

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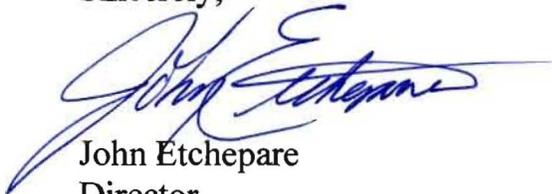
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In conclusion, we appreciate the opportunity to comment on the scope of the proposed actions. We encourage continued attention to our concerns and we look forward to hearing about and being involved in future proposed actions and decisions.

Sincerely,



John Etchepare
Director

JE/cw

CC: Governor's Planning Office
Wyoming Game and Fish Department
Wyoming Board of Agriculture
Jonah Interagency Office
Wyoming Stock Growers Association
Wyoming Wool Growers Association
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation
State Grazing Board